HUMAN EVENTS

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News Section

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Protest: A violent reaction is sweeping the State of Iowa against a dinner being planned by the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce in honor of Nikita Khrushchev. The *Des Moines Register* reports that Governor Loveless and the mayors of a number of cities would sit at the head table.

As we go to press, a protest committee is seeking to raise $2,000 to buy a full-page ad in the *Register* reprinting the HUMAN EVENTS article, "The Danger of Playing Host to Khrushchev," by Senator Thomas Dodd of Connecticut.

Khrushchev Visit: The agitation against the Khrushchev visit, with its tremendous evidence of grass roots disapproval of the invitation, has had a marked effect upon the White House and the Department of State. Last week, serious discussions took place at high levels, concerning the possibility—remote though it is—of cancelling the invitation. Alarm in Asian and European capitals, as well as in Washington, over growing Red Chinese aggression in Laos, Tibet and India, it was argued, provided the opportunity.

Taking note of the Chinese aggressions and the close alliance between Red China and Russia, syndicated columnist Roscoe Drummond asks the questions uppermost in the minds of Capital officials: "Should the United States appear to close its eyes to these latest treaty violations by receiving their co-sponsor on a state visit? Or should the President serve notice of our emphatic and official disapproval by de-inviting the Soviet Premier?"

In view of the current Communist eruptions in Asia, Drummond suggests that Russia is either scornful of the US or unable to control Red China. In the latter case, withdrawing the invitation would be a strong way of telling Khrushchev to start "relieving tensions" in his own backyard.

The columnist recalls that after a visit to Peiping in 1958 (presumably because of Red China pressure) Khrushchev cancelled his plan to attend a UN meeting on Lebanon, which he had been foremost in demanding. Thus, precedent would permit the Soviet dictator to repudiate his ally's current military attacks in Asia. "And this," noted one Washington observer, "would be little enough to demand from Khrushchev in exchange for issuing him a visa to America."

A Reminder: Representative Francis E. Walter (D.-Pa.), chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, has sent a letter to the President respectfully calling his attention to the words of Dimitry Z. Manuilsky in the Lenin School of Political Warfare in Moscow in 1931:

"War to the hilt between communism and capitalism is inevitable. Today, of course, we are not strong enough to attack. Our time will come in 20 to 30 years. To win, we shall need the element of surprise. The bourgeoisie will have to be put to sleep. So we shall begin by launching the most spectacular peace movement on record. There will be electrifying overtures and unheard-of concessions. The capitalist countries, stupid and decadent, will rejoice to cooperate in their own destruction. They will leap at another chance to be friends. As soon as their guard is down, we shall smash them with our clenched fist."

Landrum-Griffin Labor Reform: After the spectacular victory by the grass roots over the labor bosses in the House passage of the Landrum-Griffin labor reform bill, the AFL-CIO regrouped its forces and came out of "the battle of the conference" with what it privately described as "making the most of a bad deal."

The original Landrum-Griffin provisions regarding the reporting of finances, secret vote required on the election of officers, the ban on "lifetime terms" for officers and the limitation of the power to order trusteeships were retained in the conference report. Result: strengthening of the democratic powers of the membership.

"Hot cargo" clauses are forbidden, a massive assault upon a favorite weapon of the Teamsters union. But other modifications are helpful to labor.

The Landrum-Griffin bill barred picketing at a secondary site (a men's clothing store, for example), the purpose of which was to notify customers that there is a labor dispute at the manufacturing level. The compromise allows "informational" picketing. Such picketing must not prohibit deliveries or cause a work stoppage, but the enforcement provision was removed—that the employer could sue for damages in cases of illegal damages.

Landrum-Griffin disallowed organizational picketing unless the union had proved that 30 per cent of the workers had signed up for membership. This clause was modified as follows: Unions can set up picket lines at nonunion plants. But if the picket line has the effect of stopping deliveries or barring employes, a bargaining election must be applied for within 30 days. If the union loses the election, it cannot resume picketing for a year.

The Taft-Hartley clause on the voting rights of economic strikers in representation elections was weakened. Under Taft-Hartley, they lose their voting rights after

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three months. The conference report gives them voting rights for 12 months.

The compromise bill allows the garment industry to sign contracts with the needle trades specifying that primary employers will not subcontract to secondary employers who do not meet union standards. These contracts would have been invalidated under Landrum-Griffin.

The compromise bill condones voluntary agreements in the building trades where the prime contractor agrees to hire only union subcontractors. But the building trades unions may not strike to enforce these voluntary agreements.

The building trades are also given another provision they have been seeking. This is the "pre-hire agreement" under which the union and a contractor sign an agreement before any of the workers for a particular project have been hired. Then, when the job starts, the men hired have seven days in which to join the union.

Squirming Congressman: Thin-skinned Representative George McGovern (D.-S.D.) is blowing his top because the press in his home state has been chiding him for playing it both ways on the original Landrum-Griffin labor reform bill. He voted against the bill on the first ballot—the real test—then jumped on the bandwagon the next day when the bill passed by a whopping 303-125 margin.

McGovern charges South Dakota papers with "twisting my position on the labor reform issue." Claiming to have been in favor of effective labor legislation all the time, the "liberal" Democrat points to his "on final passage" vote. But the union bosses know which ballot really counted; AFL-CIO Vice President James B. Carey sent McGovern a congratulatory letter for his first one.

Victory: The one-vote margin by which the House upheld the President's veto of the $1.2 billion public works bill marked the greatest victory to date in Ike's bid to put the Nation's fiscal house in order. Measures of this nature are traditionally supported by an overwhelming majority of legislators in order to gain Federal projects for their home districts. Even the most economy-minded Congressmen had predicted that the veto would be overridden. Six Democrats withstood strong pressure from their colleagues and voted to sustain the veto: John J. Flynt of Georgia; Fred Marshall of Minnesota; Tom Murray of Tennessee; and Watkins Abbitt, Howard Smith and William Tuck, all of Virginia. (Marshall was the only Democrat to vote against passing the bill originally; his office said he has opposed such bills for several years.)

Abbitt told HUMAN EVENTS: *"I felt the bill, as amended by the Senate, was politically inspired and a Budget-busting measure. The additional projects would have added millions to the backs of the innocent taxpayers. Once you start these new projects, you have to keep on appropriating money for them, and this year's new starts would have cost $800 million. The people are entitled to a balanced Budget." Abbitt noted that he had been under "tremendous" pressure "of a friendly sort" from fellow Democrats with projects in the bill.*

Interest Rate: Senator John J. Williams (R.-Del.) figured out a way to mouse trap the "liberals" who oppose an increased interest rate on US Government bonds. Williams planned to offer a bill to raise the rate on all Series E and H bonds, including those now outstanding, to four per cent from the present 3.26 figure. All such bonds would be issued on a ten-year basis.

To oppose this proposal, the "liberals" would clearly and openly injure the 40 million "little people" now holding US bonds. Since that would be unbearable, "liberals" — hearing of the proposal — hurriedly introduced a similar measure last Thursday to beat Williams to the punch.

Anti-inflation forces are pleased with the maneuver, though explaining that it does not go far enough. "The printing of money," they say, can be prevented only by allowing long-term interest rates to be set by the free market.

Teen-Age Warfare: The igniting as human torches of two seven-year olds and the murder by teen-agers of four others in eight days has aroused New York City.

The New York *Herald-Tribune* climaxed an angry editorial:

"With all due respects to the long-range thinkers and miscellaneous well-intentioned people, things have come to a pretty sad pass when the young hoodlums can defy law and order. . . .

"If the [Police] Commissioner needs more manpower and equipment, give him what he wants. Support the Commissioner to the hilt in his battle against the jungle stuff at any cost.

"That's the responsibility of the Mayor of the City of New York, and Bob Wagner can't shirk it."

● Illegitimacy among welfare department clients in the big city is also under attack.

Dominick Rainone, former New York Welfare Department special investigator, tells HUMAN EVENTS: "The citizens of New York City and other towns faced with a huge delinquency problem can expect things to get much worse before they get better. This is largely due to the 'welfare brothels' from which so many of the delinquents come. Their mothers have children by any number of men and the moral climate in these so-called homes is appalling.

"Bleeding hearts oppose foster home plans because they maintain the 'family' should be kept together. Thousands of these women should have their children taken away from them before it is too late for the child. We are now paying the price for a generation of immorality which is largely the result of 'liberal' planning."

New York's City Council leader Joseph T. Sharkey chimed in; "It's time for drastic measures. The do-gooders have succeeded in doing nothing but knocking down our city."

● In Louisiana, state representative Walter A. Chachere, in reference to welfare programs for unwed mothers, complained, "We are literally paying a bonus for illegitimacy." Indicating the opposite "modern" attitude, Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger, Chief of the US Children's Bureau, says that it was "a bright new day" when New York's Governor Nelson Rockefeller recently signed a

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law permitting public welfare officials to give aid to an unmarried mother without communicating with her parents.

Party Split: The September 15 primary in New York City's Greenwich Village has taken on national significance for Democrats. The "liberal" wing of the party, headed by Eleanor Roosevelt, is attempting to unseat Tammany boss Carmine DeSapio as district leader, and telegrams and phone calls are flowing into the area from left-wing Demos everywhere urging DeSapio's defeat.

Insiders call the "bossism" issue a cover for a try at a state-wide party take-over by the ADA (Americans for Democratic Action) faction, with the huge New York 1960 convention delegation as the immediate prize.

Michigan: The Michigan tax crisis is over, at least temporarily. State Senate Republicans, who had fought any business activities tax increase, backed down, accepting a 1¼ mill hike to enable the state to balance its budget. Governor "Soapy" Williams originally wanted an income tax.

The business tax hike will add an estimated $8.5 million to state revenues. In addition, 20 per cent of the new increase in the state use (sales) tax (which will now be four per cent) is expected to be paid by business—making a total of $32.5 million added to the already fearsome burden carried by Michigan business in the state's Reuther-dominated atmosphere.

The major question now for Michigan: Will business, saddled with these extra imposts, speed up its flight to neighboring and Southern states?

Nehru Under Fire: India's "neutral" Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru finds himself currently in the position where most neutralists end up—he's getting it from all sides, and may wind up fighting despite himself.

Leading Indian newspapers, formerly staunch supporters of Nehru, are now bitterly critical of his foreign policy. The *Times of India*, often termed the country's best paper, speaks out forcefully:

"Experience seems to have taught our rulers nothing. Now, with Indian currency declared illegal in Tibet, with Indians being bundled out of the country and Indian traders harassed, New Delhi has thought fit to sponsor Peking's admission to the UN. Why? Is there no limit to the humiliation we are prepared to accept at China's hands?"

Native Communists are denouncing Nehru for removing the Communists from the Red provincial government in Kerala, with speeches by Communists in Parliament marking the first time since India achieved independence that the Reds have attacked Nehru. Nearly all left-wing parties have been organizing demonstrations against the government's food policies in West Bengal province. The Chinese Communists are meanwhile beginning a compaign to take over two Indian protectorates whose defense is guaranteed by India—so that Nehru may be forced to go to war against the very country whose admission to the UN he seeks!

● Adding to his woes is a news story from Bombay, which went unnoticed by most US papers. A new political party has been launched in India—the country's first conservative party. The Swantantra party, founded by a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi, is not only firmly anti-Communist but also opposes "state capitalism" and similar Socialist programs of Nehru. The new party, Washington believes, is the logical next step as Indians realize gradually where Nehru is taking them.

Cuba: Fidel Castro is on the downgrade. A wide variety of reports, from unrelated sources, suggest that Cubans, as well as Castro's US supporters, are waking up.

John V. Horner, writing for the North American Newspaper Alliance, reports: "The anti-American dictatorship established by Fidel Castro . . . is almost certainly headed for destruction. . . It is merely a question of how long Castro can last." Jules Dubois, *Chicago Tribune* Havana correspondent who wrote a book earlier this year deifying Castro, has been making an agonizing reappraisal. His latest stories admit that "Cuba has been an arsenal of conspiracy since Castro's New Year's Day victory," and "Castro and his henchmen did sponsor invasions" of other Caribbean countries. Dubois reports that US Ambassador Philip W. Bonsal has been seeking a meeting with Castro for three months, without success. Bonsal had hoped to end Castro's fears about US intentions.

Castro's economic policy has virtually ended US investment; he plans to expropriate US-owned sugar plantations, and now says he will decree a 50 per cent reduction in electric power rates. The US power company which owns the plants in Cuba promptly cancelled its plans to spend several hundred million dollars.

The reports of Soviet infiltration now are belatedly confirmed by the Central Intelligence Agency; assistant CIA director General Charles P. Cabell says that a Soviet "interpreter" for two Russian trade union leaders visiting Cuba was in actuality an agent making special contacts with Cuban Communists.

Labor in Politics: Reuther's COPE, which has already listed 12 "Senators-to-beat" in 1960 (see HUMAN EVENTS for May 13, 1959), now has picked six Senators whose defeats are "absolute musts." Tops on the Hate Parade are Carl Curtis (R.-Neb.), Karl Mundt (R.-S.D.) and Andrew Schoeppel (R.-Kan.). Close behind are Styles Bridges (R.-N.H.), Henry Dworshak (R.-Ida.) and Leverett Saltonstall (R.-Mass.). COPE has also named four "Gold Star" Senators it will go all out to re-elect: Paul Douglas (D.-Ill.), Hubert Humphrey (D.-Minn.), Pat McNamara (D.-Mich.) and Richard Neuberger (D.-Ore.).

● A University of Michigan survey, taken in Detroit, Reuther's stronghold, reveals that 40 per cent of union members think unions should stay out of politics and another 20 per cent disagree with their union's choice of candidates (who are nearly always Democrats). As it is interpreted on Capitol Hill, the survey—by the highly reliable Survey Research Center—provides new hope for GOP workers both in Michigan and elsewhere.

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Inflation: The American Bankers Association, taking a cue from "A Letter to Bankers and Insurance Executives," by Senator Styles Bridges in HUMAN EVENTS for August 19, 1959, announced that it is launching a long-range educational program throughout the Nation to combat inflation and promote economic growth.

Lee P. Miller, president of the Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Company of Louisville, explained:

"In the past the ABA has concerned itself largely with educational and other services for its own members, with banking legislation and, to a limited extent, with financial aspects of public policy—specifically monetary and Budget policy.

"We now feel, however, that to fulfill our public responsibilities as bankers and as citizens we should broaden the range of our activities."

The Association will (1) prepare for public distribution studies which will explore the causes and dangers of inflation, as well as recommend the cures for this menace and (2) venture into the field of Federal legislation, advising on bills that should be enacted and bills that should not be passed.

Fair Housing: The "Fair Housing" law passed by the State of Washington in 1957 is unconstitutional—so ruled a Superior Court in Seattle in the first test of the law. The decision will be appealed. "Fair Housing" is the name being popularized for laws being pushed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which would prohibit the owners of residential property from discriminating against any race or religion in the sale or rental of those properties.

The Seattle case involved Coast Guard Commander John J. O'Meara who put up for sale his house located in an all-white district. Robert L. Jones, a Negro mail carrier, offered Commander O'Meara $18,000, but the latter declined, saying he had already negotiated its sale for $17,250.

The Washington State Board Against Discrimination said that the Coast Guard officer had to sell to Jones since the house had been initially purchased with the aid of a loan insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

King County Judge James W. Hodson, however, decided that the state law is unconstitutional and held that the FHA loan had not eliminated the right to the homeowner to deal with anyone he chooses.

Education: The California Department of Education has been holding hearings in Los Angeles on the question of whether a Van Nuys high school social studies teacher has been guilty of "unprofessional conduct." Last January 28 the teacher sent a questionnaire to his teen-age students on nine areas of sex activity, ranging from necking to homosexuality. Three questions were based on abnormal sex practices.

Students were not required to sign their names, but the teacher made a statistical analysis of the findings and posted the results on the blackboard.

Some of the girl students who testified at the L.A. hearing described their reaction to the survey as "outrageous" and "shocking." Other witnesses testified that the questionnaire had brought the classroom atmosphere to the verge of "obscenity."

As a result of a flood of complaints, the teacher was given a leave of absence for the rest of the school year.

Despite the storm of protests from most parents, the instructor's conduct was strongly supported by the Affiliated Teaching Organizations of Los Angeles.

We the People: We the people (Ralph Gwinn, president; Harry Everingham, secretary), of 111 N. Wabash, Chicago 2, Illinois, is holding its annual convention September 18-19-20 at the La Salle Hotel in the Windy City. Senator Barry Goldwater (R.-Ariz.) will deliver the keynote address. Major convention objective: formation of a united front to combat communism in the United States.

Irony of the Week: *Last week during a conference on problems caused by wartime softness toward Russia, Ike paused to sign a bill authorizing a Potomac monument to FDR.*

Book Sales: Khrushchev's coming visit has prompted a rise in the sales of anti-Communist books. Among those most in demand are:

I Was a Slave in Russia, by John Noble.

Communism and Christianity, by Martin D'Arcy, S.J.

Reflections on the Failure of Socialism, by Max Eastman.

No More Comrades, by Andor Heller, an eyewitness story of the Hungarian Revolution.

FLOYD DURHAM, Department of Social Science, El Reno College: "HUMAN EVENTS is a very fine publication. It gives us an unbiased view we do not get elsewhere."

REV. KEVIN KEELAN, President, St. Francis College: "One comes to depend on HUMAN EVENTS for a concise evaluation of situations."

TENNANT BRYAN, President, American Newspaper Publishers Association and Publisher of the Richmond (Va.) newspapers: "I continue to be amazed and gratified at the scope and depth of the coverage given by HUMAN EVENTS to trends and events which never see the light of day elsewhere."

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Article Section

Traitor for Kicks

The Story of Martha Stern—A Soviet Spy

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By HENRY JORDAN

FOR THE FIRST TIME in their pampered careers, Alfred and Martha Stern were living in the grip of fear. Every knock at their Mexico City penthouse, every car braking outside their country place, every rustle of leaves or shuffle of feet could be the signal that the Mexican federal police had come for them.

After 15 years as Soviet spies, their time was up. Authorities in their native US, the target of their treachery, had demanded their extradition.

How had people like Martha and Alfred Stern ever gotten themselves into this sordid mess? What caused them to turn traitors to their country in the first place? Both had solid American roots. He was the scion of a prominent North Dakota banking family. She, of ancient Virginia stock, was the daughter of a former US Ambassador.

Martha started craving the spiked cocktails of international intrigue back in 1933, when her father, William E. Dodd, was named US Ambassador to Germany. He took her to Berlin.

A few days after her arrival, Martha watched a parade of goose-stepping Nazi storm troopers. All this massed, tensed-up virility, cheered by an hysterical crowd, gave her a thrill.

"The rapturous excitement of the scene overwhelmed me," she wrote in her diary. "I 'heiled' and hailed them as vigorously as any Nazi."

Being an Ambassador's daughter, she quickly got to know the top-drawer Nazis and enthusiastically embraced them all. Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels showed her his precious etchings. Air Minister Goering introduced her to his collection of hunting trophies. Handsome stunt flyer Ernst Udet entertained Martha with tales of aerial circuses.

It wasn't long, however, before Martha started cooling toward the Nazis. Encounters with victims of Nazi brutality did a great deal to change her mind about them.

"I've had enough of blood and horror to last me a lifetime," she wrote in her diary, and went on a trip to the Soviet Union.

In Russia she had a grand old time. Her guide and companion was a faithful friend, who had come with her all the way from Berlin. A suave, handsome Russian, he was officially a secretary of the Soviet embassy. Unofficially, he was a stooge of the Soviet secret police. He never tired of explaining to the Ambassador's daughter the hidden beauties of communism.

When Martha returned to Berlin, she startled her American friends by the change she had undergone: she now sounded like a Red. But it wasn't just talk.

Regularly, she rifled her Ambassador father's files and passed top-secret documents on to her Soviet boy friend for microfilming. Aside from being criminal, this was stupid. With the microfilmed proof of the pilferings in their hands, Soviet agents were in the position to blackmail her forever.

In 1937 the Nazi capital was to lose her. She sailed to New York and made Manhattan her headquarters. Except for endless rounds of parties, Martha kept quite still during those days—spywise, that is. In espionage parlance, she was a "sleeper," a trusted agent to be activated when developments called for it.

MARTHA MADE GOOD USE of her Manhattan holiday. She married a millionaire, Alfred K. Stern. He was 40, eleven years her senior, a slightly built, soft-spoken, impeccably groomed man. After inheriting a large fortune in 1921, he had married Marion Rosenwald of the Sears Roebuck millions. Financially, Al Stern's first marriage was a smashing success. When he divorced Marion in 1937, he had many times his original fortune.

Up to the day Alfred met Martha, he voted a straight Republican ticket. When he married her, however, he also wed Mother Russia, whether he knew it or not. He soon got a real kick out of mixing with Martha's boy and girl friends: tipplers, America-haters and parlor pinks. Al took to them with the eagerness of a man who is afraid he has missed something in life.

He just as eagerly embraced his wife's Soviet views. Commie-front organizations found in him a

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juicy lemon, always good for another squeeze when the treasury threatened to dry up.

Then the war came. The Soviet Union was one of the Allies. When the Germans were on the run, the Stern home resounded with delirious victory toasts, while a phonograph blared forth Red Army marching songs.

One occasional guest of the Sterns never joined in the celebration. He had professional reasons for not wanting to stand out. He was Vasili Zubilin, secretary to the Soviet Embassy in Washington. Protected by his diplomatic cover, Zubilin ruthlessly manipulated several Soviet spy mobs in the US. His friendship with the Sterns was more than just social. He was sizing them up, trying to decide what use to make of them.

On December 23, 1943, toward the end of the snowy afternoon, Zubilin drove up to the Sterns' country estate outside Ridgefield, Connecticut. He had in tow Boris Morros, a Russian who had been living in America since 1921, ex-musical director for Paramount, and a producer.

"We need a front for our future activities," Zubilin said, his eyes glittering in his pig face. "Mr. Morros and you, Mr. Stern, are going into business together."

The celebrity from Hollywood, it turned out, owned a recording company out on the Coast.

"Mr. Morros tells me $150,000 will be needed," Zubilin explained. "With that we can start recording operations and set up distribution offices on the Coast and in New York. They'll make perfect covers for my agents to meet and leave messages. When the war is over we'll open branches in Mexico and Europe."

After several days of dickering, Stern agreed to sink $130,000 in the musical spy front. He was made vice president in charge of the Eastern end, with offices at 30 Rockefeller Plaza. President Morros returned to Hollywood to pick the tunes and the artists.

Before three months were up, the Boris Morros Music Company ran into heavy weather. The occasion was Stern's first inspection trip to the Coast. When he saw how his money was being spent, he had a fit.

Morros' offices were the ultimate in splendor. Little had been spent on putting any music on platters. And what music!

"It's trash," stormed the Connecticut squire, pounding Morros' expensive desk. "I won't let you spend my money on such tripe. Why don't you record some Russian tunes?"

The job of mediating between the scrapping partners fell to Jack Soble, a Russian-trained spy and a secret agent. In 1941 the Soviet Government had sent him to the US, which he entered disguised as a refugee.

Soble phoned the Stern apartment.

"This is Sam," he said, giving the cover name under which the Sterns expected he would call. "I'll drop in at six."

The Sterns were dying to meet their new superior. When the buzzer sounded, Martha flew to the door.

Outside stood a tall, dark, beetle-browed stranger in his early forties.

"I'm Sam," he said quietly.

This was the start of a long, beautiful friendship. But right off the Sterns had to tell Soble they had no use whatever for the Boris Morros Company.

Martha said, "I just don't trust Morros."

"I'm worried about my investment," Al added.

Unable to shake the Sterns' aversion to the flamboyant Hollywood man, Soble decided on an inspection trip to the Coast. Upon his return he again phoned the Sterns. "This is Sam."

A meeting followed and Soble stated his findings. Aside from a certain extravagance, Boris Morros had made a good impression on him.

"But Boris distrusts you," Soble went on. "He also objects to the use of company funds for entertainment."

Stern bristled. "Morros is misrepresenting the facts."

In view of the personality clash and the way the company was being run, Soble subsequently advised the "director" to make arrangements for a new espionage cover.

MONTHS WENT BY, which caused Soble many gray hairs. Finally a courier known as "The Professor" arrived with the director's reply. Just one word: "Likvidirovat"—liquidate—in reference to the recording company. Soble ordered Morros to shut up shop and make the refund. But Morros had become too attached to his position. Besides, the records were doing better than ever.

"De company cun go on an' Stern cun go into other business," Morros said, jutting out his chin.

"I'm going to sue Morros till he's blue in the face," Stern threatened.

Finally, Morros came through with $100,000, claiming losses. Stern accepted.

"The director," Soble told the Sterns, "is impressed with Morros for returning the hundred thousand. Such a man, he says, deserves to be trusted."

No orders affecting the Sterns came through for months. One day Al complained to Soble, "I'm not doing enough. Can't something be done about it?"

"Because of your trouble with Morros, our superiors seem to think you're hard to get along with," Soble replied. "I'll introduce you to 'The Professor.' The next step will be up to him."

The following day Soble brought "The Professor" to the Stern estate. He liked his host's vodka and, after close scrutiny, the eager Stern himself. Encouragingly he said, "Comrade Al may have something for you."

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"Al," it developed, was Anatole Gromov, one of the most dangerous spies ever to operate inside the walls of the Soviet embassy in Washington.

Gromov, "The Professor" revealed in awed whispers, just happened to be secretly in New York. Soble would have to talk to him about any future assignments for Stern. So the next step would be for Soble to meet Gromov.

Gromov told Soble there were big plans afoot. The target was the US Government. Even the White House was to be infiltrated by Soviet agents.

"You'll move to Washington and collect reports from them," Gromov informed him.

Headquarters for the spy ring would be a fashionable Washington haberdashery. Posing as customers, the agents could come and go, arousing a minimum of suspicion. For security reasons, the funds for the purchase of the store must come from an American source.

"Get Stern to put up the money," Gromov said. "Meet me in a week, same time and place. Have Stern's check for the amount with you."

Stern was elated with the idea, but only until he heard he was expected to dish out $300,000.

"To do that would be against my best financial judgment," he said, sounding like a banker. "No haberdashery is worth that much."

Stern could not be swayed, and finally it was arranged that Soble and Stern should meet Gromov in Washington.

Comrade Gromov treated the squire of Ridgefield almost with deference, even seeing Stern's refusal to buy the men's shop.

"You are a very useful man to us," Gromov assured Stern. "We'll find the right spot for you sooner or later. Just don't get impatient."

Sinister behind-the-scenes events cast their shadows all the way into Stern's New York apartment. One late afternoon the Sterns had another phone call from Soble. Could he come up at once?

A short while later, Soble was talking to the couple about a sore subject: Boris Morros. In Moscow they thought the world of the little Hollywood producer.

"Moscow has decided to shift Morros to Europe," Soble explained to the Sterns.

Martha burst out laughing. "Don't mention Boris and communism in one breath. He's a fake. I only hope we won't be sorry he wasn't liquidated long ago."

"In all fairness," Al Stern said, "there's no proof Morros is double-crossing us, but I definitely intend to keep away from him."

"That's no good," Soble said. "How would you like to set up a cover business in Mexico?"

"The idea appeals to me," Stern answered.

On July 14, 1947, a certain roly-poly producer parked his Cadillac and made his way to the Los Angeles post office building. He got off on the floor where the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices were located.

The FBI agent in charge received him at once.

"I'm Boris Morros," the visitor announced. "I come to tell you how Communist agents try to blackmail me for years an' sen' me to Yurrop."

Morros was to get the jolt of his life. He soon realized while being questioned that FBI men had been shadowing him for a long time and had a good idea that they were observing a Soviet plot.

Following top-level conferences at the Department of Justice, it was suggested to Morros that he continue playing ball with the Soviets while acting as a counterspy for the US.

All Soviet agents Morros denounced were put under 24-hour surveillance. The purpose was to get a maximum of court evidence and trace all the fine ramifications of the network.

The FBI men soon learned from their "special special agent," as they often referred to Morros, that Soble was going to use his American passport to move to Paris. The Soviets had given him $100,000 with which to establish a brush factory in France.

Morros also revealed that, as Soble had told him, Stern was now at last busy for the "motherland," setting up a housing development in Mexico City, as a cover and alibi for his frequent trips south of the border. The Mexican capital was emerging as the hub of Soviet espionage in the New World.

Early in 1948 Morros moved to Vienna and rapidly established himself as a Hollywood character in love with Vienna's wine, women and song.

Martha Stern's chance to break Morros—or rather deliver him to Moscow's murder cellars—came in January, 1950. One morning, her eyes caught an item in the *New York Times*. The headline read: Morros to Moscow in Movie Deal.

Martha's busy mind quickly figured out that the movie deal was merely an alibi intended to pull the wool over the eyes of the FBI, but she also saw it as the long-awaited moment to slip a banana peel under him and watch him skid.

She typed up a brief note in which she charged Morros with being a bogus Red, and saw to it that a courier took the letter to Moscow in time to do Morros no good.

On his arrival, a few days before, Soviet motion picture dignitaries had rolled out the red carpet, and the newspaper Pravda *hailed him as a symbol of friendship and co-operation. And now, suddenly, silence. The mysterious Kremlin walls had swallowed up little Boris. At this point Martha had every right to indulge in hopeful and horrible thoughts. But after three weeks the silence exploded with a bang and a flash. Morros, the New York evening papers said, had arrived in Los Angeles. He told newsmen at the airport that he had sold all his movie flops to the Russians.*

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It was to be seven long years before details leaked out how Morros had managed to slip away from that very close shave in Moscow. One morning he had been in conference with Lavrenti Beria, chief of the Soviet terror and espionage apparatus, when a secretary placed a message on the big shot's desk. Martha's sweet note.

The roof fell in. Morros was put on the grill for days on end. Not only did he have to defend himself against Martha's accusations, but also against every bit of incriminating gossip in the secret police files on him.

Another matter the secret police bullies brought up was his relations with the Sterns.

"She never forgives a man for rebuffing her," Morros summed up the situation.

At last Boris' tormentors relented and he returned to the US in the good graces of Moscow.

FOR FOUR MORE YEARS after Morros' grim and grotesque escape, the Soble network continued its operations undisturbed—though everyone of its steps was watched by the FBI. For security reasons, details still can't be told. However, it can be said that the FBI strategy of waiting paid off nicely. Additional ramifications of the network kept coming into focus, while, thanks to Morros, a stream of information kept the FBI in touch with some of the most closely guarded intelligence secrets in Moscow.

Little by little, Soviet agents, temporarily lying low, were activated again just to see if the FBI would sweep them up. Finally even Soble made the trip from Paris to New York and back, without being molested. This was taken by Moscow as a definite sign that all was well.

Morros' position as a Soviet agent steadily increased in importance. His big day came when Soble's passport expired. After five years abroad, Soble had to either return to the US or risk loss of his precious American citizenship. Moscow ordered him back to New York and Morros took over as head of the network. Her old foe's promotion gave Martha an additional incentive to tell Moscow what a treacherous, double-crossing capitalist stooge he was, but still her cries, ascribed by Moscow to vindicativeness, went unanswered.

Martha bided her time. By 1957, the entire top personnel of the Soviet secret police had changed. Hundreds of old-timers had been executed. The big chief, Lavrenti Beria, was dead.

General Ivan Serov was the new head of the secret police and espionage apparatus. In the course of a personnel check, Morros' case came to his attention. All the bits of unfavorable information which had accumulated in Morros' file over the years set Serov brooding. As a result, a death trap was set for Morros in Vienna on January 20.

On January 19, Morros woke up in a Munich hotel. Just as he finished shaving, a bell boy came up with a telegram.

The message consisted of a single word: Cinerama.

Morros turned white. Cinerama was the FBI code for: Your life is in gravest danger. Return to the US at once!

How the FBI learned of the death plot against Morros is still a secret. Having pulled out its "special special" agent, the FBI had to follow up with quick arrests of the other members of the ring. It couldn't be helped that the timing was all wrong. Only Soble, his wife and his latest assistant, Jacob Albam, were within reach. A couple of atom spies from New Mexico were in Vienna, and the Sterns in Mexico. Some Soviet agents attached to the Soviet embassy had blown the country, apparently as a result of the Serov order.

Of foreign countries involved, only Mexico was willing to discuss extradition.

THE STERNS' NEED to leave Mexico became desperate when on July 1, 1957, a New York grand jury returned a three-count espionage indictment, charging the Sterns with transmitting secret defense data to the Soviets; collecting information for transmission to the Soviets; and failing to register as foreign agents. The first count carried a possible death penalty.

On July 20, the Sterns were suddenly missing from their Mexican haunts. Their trail showed up in Montreal, Amsterdam, and Prague. They had traveled on Dutch planes most of the way, exhibiting a Paraguayan passport in the name of Camilla.

Finally the "Camillas" turned up in Moscow, where Al let out a tired blast: the espionage charges were based on lies; the US was in the grip of hysteria; and even though he was now a citizen of Paraguay, he felt sincerely sorry for the American people.

Since the "Senor's" heart bleeds for us, and he is now a well-fixed Communist, there is one thing he could do: cough up the $976.34 grand jury fee he pirated. That money belongs to the American taxpayer.

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